**Making comparisons**

* The simplest kind of comparison uses *than*. (You look **younger than** your brother.)
* Comparatives can be repeated to suggest continuing change. (Jim started feeling **more and more tired.**)
* Comparatives can be made stronger or weaker by using these words:

Stronger: much far a lot

Weaker: a bit a little

**Even/a lot/much/far/ a bit/ a little/ slightly + comparative**

e.g. He seems **much better** today. This journal is **much / a little** more expensive.

* Note this construction that repeats the word *the*. (**The faster** you drive, **the more** petrol you use.)
* Expressions with *best*:

Sorry, but this is **the best** I can do. May **the best** man win.

* **By far superlative**

e.g. She is **by far the most beautiful** woman I’ve ever seen.

* **Any/no + comparative (in questions and negations)**

e.g. The days aren’t getting **any warmer**. I want **no more** of that kind of behavior.

* **As + adjective + as / not so/as + adjective+ as**

e.g. It was **not so/as hot as** it was yesterday.

* **Twice/three times as + adjective + as**

e. g. Their car was **twice as expensive as** ours.

* **The same ……………as**

e. g. The situation in the Canada is **the same as** in the USA.

1. Put one suitable word in each space, beginning with the letter given.

1. Is William feeling any b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today? 2. Everyone ate a lot, but Chris ate the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 3. What’s the l\_\_\_\_\_\_ news about the situation in India? 4. I’d feel a lot h\_\_\_\_\_\_ if you let me help. 5. Graham has been sinking d\_\_\_\_\_\_ into debt lately. 6. It’s 35 degrees today! It must be the h\_\_\_\_\_\_ day so far this year. 7. Only £45? Is that all? Oh well, it’s b\_\_\_\_\_\_ than nothing. 8. He had to wait a f\_\_\_\_\_\_ two months before he got his promotion. 9. Ruth wore her b\_\_\_\_\_\_ dress to her sister’s wedding. 10. Harry has got over the w\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his cold.

2. Put one suitable word in each space.

1. My brother is two years older \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me. 2. The train takes just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ long as the bus. 3. I thought the second hotel we stayed in was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more friendly. 4. Unfortunately we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well-off than we used to be. 5. Do you think you could make a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ less noise? 6. These exercises seem to be getting harder and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 7. Jean doesn’t need as much help as Harry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 8. David didn’t enjoy the match as much as I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Rewrite each sentence beginning as shown. Do not change the meaning.

1. Jill can run faster than Peter. Peter *can’t run as fast as Jill (can)*.

2. I thought this journey would last longer than it did. *This journey didn’t* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. I didn’t arrive as early as I expected. *I arrived* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. You are working too slowly. *You’ll have to* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. I have a brother who is older than me. *I have an* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Martin thought the second part of the film was more interesting. *Martin didn’t think the first* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Paula’s work is less careful than before. Paula has been working \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. There aren’t any trains earlier than this one. *This is* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. All other cafés are further away. *This café* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. Is this the best price you can offer? *Can’t you* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Put in the adjectives in brackets into the comparative or superlative form.

**Memo**

The company’s annual report shows that sales figures were (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_ (low) than the previous years. This is no surprise due to the recession but what is (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_ (disappointing) than this is the clear evidence that some of our very (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (old) clients have switched to another supplier. We are aware that there are (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cheap) suppliers than ourselves but this may be not be the (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (important) factor. One old client was heard to say that their new supplier was (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (efficient) and (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_ (flexible) than we are. If this is the case, then this is (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (worrying) than anything else. The economic situation is getting (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ (critical) and if we do not compare favourably with our (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (big) competitors, then we will not survive. We used to have the (11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (high) reputation in the business but we are in danger of losing that forever. It is not easy to be the (12) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (good) but that is what we should be aiming for.

5. Put the adjectives in brackets into the comparative or superlative form, adding any necessary words.

1) A: Did you enjoy the film?

B: Yes. It was ………………………….. (funny) film I’ve ever seen.

2) A: Was it a good party?

B: Yes. I left far …………………….. (late) than I had intended to.

3) A: Why do you want to go to Spain?

B: Because it’s much …………………………. (warm) England.

4) A: If you need any …………………………. (far) help, just ask me.

B: Thank you. That’s very kind of you.

5) A: That exam was really difficult.

B: I agree. It was a lot …………………………. (difficult) I had expected.

6) I felt very ill last week, but I’m slightly ……………………. (good) now.

7) The new library is far …………………… (close) to my old house that the old one.

8) This jacket was by far ………………………….. (expensive) in the shop.

6. Fill in the blanks, as in the examples.

1) The noise got ….***louder and louder*** ….(loud) until I couldn’t bear it any longer. 2) …. ***The harder***…. (hard) he works, … ***the more successful*** … (successful) he becomes. 3) It rained…………………… (hard) until the river burst its banks. 4)…………. (cold) it got, …………… (many)………… clothes they had to put on to keep warm. 5) Jake ran ………………… (fast) and won the race. 6)……………………. (high) he jumped,……………… (loud) the crowd cheered. 7) Cars are getting………………………….(cheap) as the years go by. 8)…………………… (young) you are, ………………… (easy) you find it to learn things. 9)………………… (many) people are opening their own businesses these days. 10) …………… (old) he gets, ………………… (tall) he grows.